US Army Corps
of Engineers.

Regulatory Branch
333 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-2197

SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT

PUBLIC NOTICE

for

Santa Cruz Countywide Partners in Restoration Permit Coordination Program
Regional General Permit

NUMBER: 27564S DATE: January 20, 2005 RESPONSE REQUIRED BY: February 20, 2005

PROJECT MANAGER: Phelicia M. G. Thompson PHONE: 415-977-8452 Email: phelicia.m.thompson@spd02.usace.army.mil

1. **INTRODUCTION:** The Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District (SCCRCD), 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128, Capitola, CA 95010, (contact: James McKenna, President, (831) 464-2950) in partnership with the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and through its agent Nicole Martin, 121 Second Street, 6th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105 ((415) 977-0380 ex. 304) has applied for a U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers (Corps) permit for a program to assist landowners in implementing and maintaining conservation practices on private lands in Santa Cruz County, CA. This application is being processed pursuant to the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1344) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. Section 403).

2. **PROPOSED PROJECT:**

Project Site: The Santa Cruz Countywide Partners in Restoration Permit Coordination Program (Program) would cover implementation and maintenance of fifteen conservation practices on private properties throughout Santa Cruz County over a five-year period. Because projects will be occurring in multiple locations, it is not possible to define specific project sites at this time, although they will all occur on private properties within Santa Cruz County.

Purpose and Need: The basic purpose of this Program is to provide a mechanism for private landowners in Santa Cruz County to work with the SCCRCD and NRCS to complete environmentally beneficial conservation and restoration projects that require permits and approvals from various regulatory agencies. The overall purpose of this Program is to encourage implementation of practices that will reduce non-point source pollution and streambank erosion and provide associated benefits of streambank protection, groundwater recharge, and aquatic and terrestrial habitat enhancement.

Project Description: SCCRCD proposes to assist landowners in utilizing conservation practices on private properties in Santa Cruz County according to the terms and conditions established by the resource agencies issuing approvals for the Program. One of the long-term goals of the Program includes the improvement of wetland functioning in the County's watersheds. Additionally, these conservation practices would be used to restore natural aquatic functions; stabilize erodible soils to prevent soil accumulation in wetlands; collect sediments before they enter waterways and wetlands; and to provide watering areas for livestock away from sensitive habitats. Projects that impact wetlands will result in a net gain in quality, quantity, and/or permanence of wetland habitats.

The SCCRCD and NRCS have requested a Regional General Permit that would authorize all qualifying projects for a five-year period. Under this Program, multiple, qualifying, NRCS-approved projects could be constructed per year. Restoration and conservation projects will be implemented by participants in the Program including ranchers, growers, land managers, and individual property owners (Cooperators) who work with the SCCRCD and the NRCS. The SCCRCD and NRCS will assist Cooperators in project design and monitor implementation and maintenance of conservation practices to ensure performance in accordance with the conditions of the regulatory approvals and other permits issued for the Program. A Cooperator that works with the SCCRCD and NRCS, and who signs a Cooperator Agreement in which they agree to follow the design and construction specifications developed in cooperation with the SCCRCD and NRCS, will be allowed to implement the associated conservation practices without the need to seek separate Corps authorization, provided the Cooperator follows the terms and conditions within the Corps Regional General Permit.

Under the terms of the Regional General Permit, the SCCRCD and NRCS would be required to notify the Corps annually of proposed projects to allow Corps review and approval prior to project construction. Total impacts to Waters of the U.S. will be monitored throughout the period of the permit. Modifications to terms and conditions of the permit will be pursued as necessary to ensure minimal environmental impacts and that the goals of the applicants' Program are being met.

Specific project details would include the implementation of one or more of the proposed fifteen conservation and restoration practices. Of the proposed fifteen practices, eleven directly involve a discharge within Corps jurisdiction and are therefore subject to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and occasionally Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. These practices are marked with an asterisk (*) in the following list:

1. ***Access Road Improvements**** - This practice includes improving existing roads used for moving livestock, produce, and equipment. The goal is to provide access for proper, property management while controlling runoff thereby preventing erosion and maintaining or improving water quality. An example of this practice might include re-grading or out-sloping a road, or adding a rolling dip to a road so that water is less erosive as it travels across the road. This practice may also be used for repair or removal of culverts from non-fish-bearing streams associated with access road improvements. This practice is used only on existing roads.

2. ***Critical area plantings*** - Planting vegetation such as trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, or legumes, on highly erodible or critically eroding, upland areas (does not include tree planting mainly for wood products). This practice is used to stabilize the soil, reduce damage from sediment and runoff to downstream areas, and improve wildlife habitat and visual resources. Plants may take up more of the nutrients in the soil, reducing the amount that can be washed into surface waters or leached into ground water. During grading, seedbed preparation, seeding, and mulching, quantities of sediment and associated chemicals may be washed into surface waters prior to plant establishment.

3. ***Installation of swales and grassed waterways to slow runoff (Diversions)*** - A channel constructed across the slope, generally with a supporting ridge on the lower side to slow and redirect surface flow.

This practice results in a reduction of sheet and rill erosion by reducing the length of slope. Sediment may also be reduced by the elimination of gullies, reducing the amount of sediment and related pollutants delivered to the surface waters. This practice may also be used to deliver water to a sediment basin or an open area where runoff can infiltrate the ground at a natural rate of flow. This practice does not result in a change in volume of flow, or flow reduction in surface waters. This practice does not involve the diversion of water from a waterway. This practice does not result in the redirection of flow to a new watershed. This practice applies to sites where: 1) runoff damages cropland, pastureland, farmsteads, or conservation practices; 2) surface flow and shallow subsurface flow caused by seepage are damaging land; 3) runoff is in excess and available for use on nearby sites; 4) a diversion is required as part of a pollution abatement system; or 5) a diversion is required to control erosion and runoff.

4. ***Installation of filter strips*** - A strip or area of vegetation for trapping sediment, organic matter, and other pollutants from runoff and wastewater. The strip or area is situated between cropland, grazing land, or disturbed land (including forest land) and environmentally sensitive areas. Installation often requires soil manipulation to remove surface irregularities and prepare for planting. When the field borders are located such that runoff flows across them in sheet flow, coarser grained sediments are filtered and deposited. Pesticides and nutrients may be removed from runoff through infiltration, absorption, adsorption, decomposition, and volatilization thereby protecting water quality downstream. However, the filter strips may not filter out some soluble or suspended fine-grained materials, especially during heavy rain events. Filter strips may also reduce erosion on the area on which they are constructed.

5. ***Fish stream improvements**** - Improving a stream channel to create new fish habitat or to enhance an existing habitat. The practice is used to improve or enhance aquatic habitat for fish in degraded streams, channels, and ditches by providing shade, controlling sediment, and restoring pool and riffle stream characteristics. Pools and riffles are formed in degraded stream sections through the strategic placement of logs, root wads, or natural rocks that reduce the flow velocity through the area. Coarse-grained sediments settle thereby reducing the quantity of sediment delivered downstream. The dissolved oxygen content may be increased, improving the stream's assimilative capacity. This practice may also be used for removal or modification of fish barriers such as flashboard dams or logjams. The modification of flashboard dams may involve cutting a notch in the dam to allow for fish passage. Complete removal of flashboard dams would also be covered under this Program. This practice may be used for the removal or modification of logjams that present a complete barrier to all life stages of anadromous fish passage. If the logjam does not act as a complete barrier, it may be implemented no more than two times annually under the Program only if the following circumstance exists: In situations where water is actively or potentially deflecting water to a bank, threatening further erosion, bank failure, destruction of conservation practices installed to stabilize the bank, or threatening damage to life and housing, the logjam may be modified to minimize this threat. This

practice may be used to remove culverts that pose barriers to fish passage and replacement of an existing culvert with a crossing that improves fish passage. This practice may also be used to remove hardened crossings that pose barriers to salmonid passage (culverts, fords, etc) and replace them with bridges, bottomless arch culverts and embedded culverts that do allow for fish passage. While most activities will occur during the summer months when most areas are dry, dewatering may be required for some projects involving the fish stream improvement practices. Dewatering a portion of a stream during construction would involve isolating the work area using temporary structures such as cofferdams and pumping water around the worksite in order to maintain flows downstream. This practice will be designed and implemented in accordance with California Department of Fish and Game's (CDFG) *California Salmonid Stream Habitat and Restoration Manual* or as approved by National Marine Fisheries Service and CDFG.

6. ***Grade stabilization structures (in gullies)*** - Installing a structure into a gully to control the grade and prevent head cutting in natural or artificial channels. For the purposes of the Program, this practice will not be installed in fish bearing streams and would primarily be used for gully repair. This practice refers to rock, timber, or vegetative structures, such as a brush mattress, placed to slow water velocities above and below the structure, resulting in reduced erosion. This practice also involves earthmoving to reshape the area impacted by the gully. This will decrease the yield of sediment and sediment-attached substances and improve downstream water quality.

7. ***Grassed waterways**** - Installing grassed waterways, defined as a natural or constructed channel that is shaped or graded to provide stable conveyance of runoff by altering dimensions, velocities and existing vegetation. This practice may reduce the erosion in a concentrated flow area, such as a gully. This may result in the reduction of sediment and substances delivered to receiving waters. Vegetation may act as a filter in removing some of the sediment delivered to the waterway, although this is not typically the primary function of a grassed waterway. Grassed waterways may be used to reduce the erosive force of runoff from agricultural lands into riparian or wetland areas or into a sediment basin. Grading and seedbed preparation may result in some short-term soil loss prior to establishment of vegetative cover.

8. ***Obstruction Removal**** - Removal and disposal of unwanted structures from waterways including cars, large appliances, and garbage (items that are anthropic and not natural to the system). Large objects such as cars and appliances would be removed unless their removal would result in a (net) detrimental effect. For example, cars will not be removed if the action would result in disturbance to a significant area (beyond the scope of this Program). Structures would be removed when the stream channel is dry or during the lowest flows to minimize impacts. While most activities will occur when most areas are dry, dewatering may be required for some projects involving removal of large objects such as cars and appliances. Dewatering a portion of a stream during construction would involve isolating the work area using temporary structures such as cofferdams and the pumping of water around the worksite in

order to maintain flows downstream.

9. ***Pipelines**** - Use of a pipeline for conveying water from a source to points of its use thereby shift livestock to constructed waters sources and away from streams and lakes. This practice is designed to reduce bank erosion, sediment yield, and manure entering watercourses. Occasionally, a pipeline may cross streams or watercourses. The maximum livestock pipeline diameter would be 3 inches. While most activities will occur during the summer months when most areas are dry, dewatering may be required for some projects involving installation of a pipeline. Dewatering a portion of a stream during construction would involve isolating the work area using temporary structures such as cofferdams and the pumping of water around the worksite in order to maintain flows downstream.

10. ***Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats**** - Restoring and conserving rare or declining native vegetated communities and associated wildlife species. This practice is used to restore land or aquatic habitats degraded by human activity; provide habitat for rare and declining wildlife species by restoring and conserving native plant communities; increase native plant community diversity; management of unique or declining native habitats. This practice may be used to remove invasive plant species in sensitive resource areas in order to improve the quality of the adjacent aquatic habitat. On occasion, this practice will require movement and deposits of fill material as necessary for the improvement of habitats.

11. ***Sediment Basins**** - Basins constructed to collect and store debris or sediment. Sediment basins will trap sediment, sediment associated materials, and other debris thereby preventing undesirable deposition on bottomlands and in waterways and streams. Basins are generally located at the base of agricultural lands that are adjacent to natural drainage or riparian areas. Basins will be built in uplands and will not impact any Waters of the U.S., including wetlands. This practice may also involve designing the sediment basin to control water volumes leaving a site and releasing the water at a natural flow rate. The practice does not treat the source of sediment but provides a barrier to reduce degradation of surface water downstream by preventing sediments and potential pollutants from reaching water courses. Basins may also increase groundwater recharge. All spillways will be designed to prevent scouring at discharge points within natural drainages. Only the outfall structures associated with these basins will result in deposition of fill within Waters of the U.S.

12. ***Streambank Protection**** - Using vegetation or structures to stabilize and protect banks of streams, lakes, or estuaries against scour and erosion. The banks of streams and water bodies are protected by vegetation to reduce sediment loads causing downstream damage and pollution and to improve the stream for fish and wildlife habitat as well as protect adjacent land from erosion damage. Streambank protection methods were taken from the CDFG *California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual*, and include log cribbing, live vegetative crib wall, logbank armor, riprap, native material revetment, willow sprigging, brush mattressing, and trenching. These methods may be applied to natural or excavated channels where the

stream banks are susceptible to erosion from the action of water or debris or to erosion from damage caused by livestock or vehicular traffic. This activity may be done in conjunction with stream channel stabilization activities, as long as it does not result in channelization of the watercourse. While most activities will occur during the summer months when most areas are dry, dewatering may be required for some projects during installation of the bank protection. Dewatering would include installing temporary structures such as cofferdams and pumping water around the worksite to maintain flows downstream.

13. ***Stream Channel Stabilization**** - Stabilizing the channel bed with suitable structures in non-fish bearing streams. This practice would not be used in fish bearing streams and applies only to stream channels undergoing damaging aggradation or degradation where upstream solutions cannot be reasonably implemented. The design and installation of grade stabilization structures would produce a stable streambed favorable to wildlife and riparian growth. This practice may be utilized to remove unexpectedly accumulated, clogging sand or sediment after a large storm event or bank failure but not for routine maintenance involving dredging of a waterway. While most activities will occur during the summer months when most areas are dry, dewatering may be required for some projects involving installation of the stream channel stabilization practices. Dewatering would include installing temporary structures such as cofferdams and pumping water around the worksite to maintain flows downstream.

14. ***Structures for Water Control**** - Installing structures in an irrigation ditch, drainage, or other water management system including streams and gullies, used to convey water, control the direction or rate of flow, or maintain a desired water surface elevation. By controlling the velocity of water running through an area, this practice reduces erosion and prevents down cutting of stream channels. This practice can be used to replace or retrofit existing culverts that are either not functioning properly or are a barrier to fish passage. The placement of new culverts, when environmentally beneficial, is also covered. Culverts will be consistent with CDFG guidelines listed in *Culvert Criteria for Fish Passage* (April 2003) and National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Region's *Guidelines for Salmonid Passage as Stream Crossings* (September 2001).

15. ***Underground Outlets*** – This practice involves installation of a conduit beneath the surface of the ground to collect surface water and convey it to a suitable outlet. This practice is typically, although not always, associated with the sediment basin (with or without water control). Excess surface water generated by farmland on steep terrain can be collected and conveyed to a sediment basin by installing pipe safely buried underground. Location, size, and number of inlets are determined to collect excess runoff and prevent erosive surface flow. This runoff is then discharged at a sediment basin where high velocity runoff is calmed and suspended sediment is trapped prior to releasing water into natural drainage channel. The basin is designed to release water at a natural rate of flow.

Impact: For each project carried out under the Program, total permanent fill to waterways and wetlands may not exceed 0.5 acre and may not

result in permanent fill of more than 0.1 acre of wetland. If potential wetlands are identified in the project areas where individual projects will be implemented under the proposed Program, wetland delineations will be performed to assist in avoiding impacts to wetlands. The range of fill material may include: non-erodible earth, aggregate (gravel, clay, silt, sand), logs, root wads, timber, rock, and mortar or concrete in limited, discrete locations as energy dissipaters and grade stabilization structures. No project will be initiated by the SCCRCD or NRCS that results in a net loss in the quality, quantity and permanence of wetland acreage and values in Santa Cruz County watersheds.

Mitigation: Short-term impacts to aquatic resources that cannot be avoided during project construction will be mitigated through improved long-term water quality and wetland habitat that will result from reduced non-point source pollution and streambank erosion, bioengineered streambank protection, increased groundwater recharge, and aquatic and terrestrial habitat enhancement.

3. COMPLIANCE WITH VARIOUS FEDERAL LAWS:

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA): The Corps will assess the environmental impacts of the proposed action in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. Section 4371 et. seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations, 40 C.F.R. Part 1500-1508, and Corps' Regulations, 33 C.F.R. Part 230 and 325, Appendix B. Unless otherwise stated, the Environmental Assessment will describe only the impacts (direct, indirect, and cumulative) resulting from activities within the Corps' jurisdiction. The documents used in the preparation of the Environmental Assessment will be on file with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District, Regulatory Branch, 333 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94105-2197.

Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA): The U.S.D.A. National Resources Conservation Service will be the lead agency for compliance with ESA. Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act requires formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) if any projects authorized under this Program could adversely affect any Federally listed threatened or endangered species or its designated critical habitat. Species and critical habitat currently identified as potentially impacted by the Program include:

Plants

- Ben Lomond spineflower, *Chorizanthe pungens var hartwegiana*
- Ben Lomond wallflower (Santa Cruz wallflower), *Erysimum tetetifolium*
- Monterey spineflower, *Chorizanthe p. pungens*
- Robust spineflower (Aptos spineflower), *Chorizanthe robusta var. robusta*
- Santa Cruz cypress, *Cupressus abramsiana*
- Santa Cruz tarplant, *Holocarpha macradenia*
- Scott's Valley polygonum, *Polygonum hickmanii*
- Scott's Valley spineflower, *Chorizanthe robusta var hartwegii*
- Tidestrom's lupine (Clover lupine), *Lupinus tidestromii*
- White -rayed pentachaeta, *Pentachaeta bellidiflora*

Animals

- Central California Coast (CCC) Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) coho salmon, *Oncorhynchus kisutch*
- CCC ESU steelhead, *O. mykiss*
- South-Central California Coast ESU steelhead, *O. mykiss*
- Mount Hermon (=Barbate) June beetle, *Polyphylla barbata*
- Ohlone tiger beetle, *Cicindela ohlone*
- Zayante band-winged grasshopper, *Trimerotropis infantilis*
- Tidewater goby, *Euclogobius newberryi*
- California red-legged frog, *Rana aurora draytonii*
- California tiger salamander, *Ambystoma californiense*
- Santa Cruz long-toed salamander, *Ambystoma macrodactylum croceum*

- San Francisco garter snake, *Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia*
- Least Bell's vireo, *Vireo bellii pusillus*
- Marbled murrelet, *Brachyramphus marmoratus*

Critical Habitat

- CCC ESU coho salmon
- Zayante band-winged grasshopper
- Marbled murrelet
- Monterey spineflower
- Robust spineflower
- Santa Cruz tarplant
- Scott's Valley polygonum
- Scott's Valley spineflower

The U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service has requested formal Section 7 Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NMFS for the Program to assess potential impacts to these species and develop protection measures to minimize impacts. The SCCRCD and NRCS have worked with these agencies to develop and refine species-specific protection measures to be implemented as conditions of approval for the Program. Agencies will formalize these conditions in standard permits or agreements issued for the Program. These conditions will be incorporated into the individual projects carried out under the auspices of the Program. The protection measures may also be made modified by the regulatory agencies on a site-by-site basis to provide for greater resource protection and application of adaptive management.

Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act: NMFS and several interagency fisheries councils have designated specific water bodies as Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act. Specific EFH concerns associated with this proposal include temporary impacts to substrate during implementation of conservation practices. Temporary adverse effects associated with these practices would be offset by the long-term beneficial effects of improvements to stream habitat expected. Once installed, erosion control and streambank stabilization projects would reduce the amount of fine sediment entering streams that would otherwise clog and bury spawning gravels and redds. The quality of habitat would also be improved through the installation of structures such as large woody debris and boulders that create refuge habitat for juvenile and over-wintering steelhead and coho. Measures to minimize potential impacts to fisheries habitat during construction will be finalized in the Biological Opinion issued by NMFS for the Program.

Clean Water Act of 1972 (CWA):

a. Water Quality: Under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1341), an applicant for a Corps permit must first obtain a State water quality certification before a Corps permit may be issued. The applicant has provided the Corps with evidence that he has submitted a valid request for State water quality certification to the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. No Corps permit will be granted until the applicant obtains the required water quality certification. The Corps may assume a waiver of water quality certification if the State fails or refuses to act on a valid request for certification within 60 days after the receipt of a valid request, unless the District Engineer determines a shorter or longer period is reasonable for the State to act.

Those parties concerned with any water quality issues that may be associated with this project should write to the Executive Officer, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region, 895 Arrow Vista Pl. Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401, by the close of the comment period of this Public Notice.

b. Alternatives: Evaluation of this proposed activity's impact includes application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the

Environmental Protection Agency under Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1344(b)). The goal of the conservation practices and restoration activities covered under the Program is to protect and enhance water quality and sensitive habitats, including wetlands. In some cases, installation of these practices necessitates work in or around water and/or wetlands in order to achieve the ultimate goal of encouraging activities that protect these resources. An evaluation has been made by this office under the guidelines and it was determined that the proposed project is water dependent.

Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA): Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act requires the applicant to certify that the proposed project will comply with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program, if applicable. No Corps permit will be issued until the State has concurred with the applicant's certification. The applicant is working with the California Coastal Commission to ensure Coastal development issues should be directed to the California Coastal Commission (CCC), 725 Front Street, Suite 300, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA): All projects implemented under the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program would be subject to NRCS assessment to ensure potential impacts to cultural resources are minimized. The NRCS is currently revising their Programmatic Agreement (PA) with the State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Although the PA is currently being revised, it is expected to be in place during the life of the Program. Essentially the PA states that the NRCS is responsible for cultural resources compliance in all actions where NRCS is considered the lead agency. The PA creates a process for assessing potential impacts, reviewing local, state and national records and literature, and consulting with tribal authorities, historical societies and other interested parties. The policy also dictates the NRCS process for dealing with the discovery of human remains and previously unknown cultural resources. NRCS Policies ensure that the effects of conservation activities on historic properties are considered in the earliest planning stages and that cultural resource protection is accomplished as efficiently as possible. For all conservation projects covered by the Program, the NRCS identifies and examines the potential impacts to cultural resources and ensures that no significant adverse effects will result.

4. **PUBLIC INTEREST EVALUATION:** The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impact, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposed activity must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including its cumulative effects. Among those factors are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historical properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

5. **CONSIDERATION OF COMMENTS:** The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public, Federal, State and local agencies and officials, Indian Tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on

endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest in the proposed activity.

6. **SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS:** Interested parties may submit, in writing, any comments concerning this activity. Comments should include the applicant's name and the number and the date of this Public Notice, and should be forwarded so as to reach this office within the comment period specified on Page 1. Comments should be sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District, Regulatory Branch, 333 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94105-2197. It is the Corps' policy to forward any such comments that include objections to the applicant for resolution or rebuttal. Any person may also request, in writing, within the comment period of this Public Notice that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Additional details may be obtained by contacting the applicant whose name and address are indicated in the first paragraph of this Public Notice or by contacting Ms. Phelicia Thompson of our office at telephone 415-977-8452 or E-mail: Phelicia.M.Thompson@spd02.usace.army.mil.

Details on any changes of a minor nature that are made in the final permit action will be provided upon request